

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An intermediate support element for a front fender (5) of a motor vehicle, ~~this~~ the support element being able to be mounted on an upper beam (3) of ~~the~~ a chassis of the motor vehicle and comprising vehicle, the support element comprising:
a body (6) body; and
at least one breakable protuberance (7A, 7B) projecting upward and to which
said front fender (5) is intended to be fixed, said protuberance and said body being molded in
a single part, said protuberance (7A, 7B) comprising comprising:
at least one front wall (28) connected by a frangible zone (26) to said
body (6) body,
a rear wall (27) connected by the frangible zone (26) to said body
(6) body, and
a third wall connected by the frangible zone to said body, wherein:
the third wall (29, 30) which the frangible zone (26) connects to said body (6)
and which rigidly connects the front wall (28) and the rear wall (27) to each other other, and
the frangible zone is a thinned zone having a thickness that is less than said
body and said front wall, said rear wall and said third wall of the protruberance.

2. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein opposite the third wall (29, 30), the breakable protuberance (7A, 7B) has a fourth wall (29, 30) ~~which~~ wall, the frangible zone (26) connects said fourth wall to said body (6) and ~~which~~ the fourth wall rigidly connects the front wall (28) and the rear wall (27) to each other.

3. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the frangible zone (26) surrounds the breakable ~~protuberance (7A, 7B),~~protuberance.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the third wall (30) of the protuberance (7A, 7B) is drilled with a hole (18) for the passage of ~~means (19) for fixing a~~ fixing device that fixes the fender (5) to the ~~protuberance (7A, 7B),~~protuberance.

6. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein said body (6) has an upper wall (9) ~~which~~that is provided with the ~~protuberance (7A, 7B),~~protuberance, and at least one upper oblique release ramp (25) on ~~the~~ a side of an edge (5a) of the front fender (5) fitted to the upper wall (9) and, at its ~~its~~ a lowest point, reaching a side edge of ~~this~~ the upper wall (9).wall.

7. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~wherein the support element is molded in a thermosetting polymer.

8. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the thermosetting polymer is filled with fibers and non-filiform particles.

9. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 8, ~~characterized in that it~~wherein the support element contains between 25 and 40% by weight of thermosetting polymer, between 18 and 25% by weight of glass fibers and between 40 and 50% by weight of non-filiform particles.

10. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the thermosetting polymer is electrically conductive.

11. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed claim 1, ~~characterized in that it has means (20, 23) for positioning~~further comprising positioning structure that positions at least one front piece of equipment of the motor ~~vehicle, such as a lighting assembly, a front facade or a hood.~~vehicle.

12. (Currently Amended) The intermediate support element as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein, in section along any antero-posterior vertical plane, the protuberance (7A, 7B) is inside a first enveloping circle (U1) which has its a center (I1) in ~~the~~a middle of a front portion of the frangible ~~zone (26),~~zone, in front of the ~~protuberance (7A, 7B),~~protuberance, and passes through the middle (I2) of a rear portion of the frangible ~~zone (26),~~zone, behind the ~~protuberance (7A, 7B),~~protuberance, and in that in section along any antero-posterior vertical plane, the protuberance (7A, 7B) is inside a second enveloping circle (U2) which has its a center (I2) in ~~the~~a middle of the rear portion of the frangible ~~zone (26),~~zone, and passes through the middle (I1) of the front portion of the frangible ~~zone (26),~~zone.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for molding ~~an~~the intermediate support element (4) as claimed in ~~claim 4,~~claim 1, in which a mold (50) is used which comprises at least one fixed part (52) and one movable part (51) and which delimits a molding chamber (53) and at least one discharge passage (54) communicating with ~~this~~the molding chamber, the latter comprising at least one portion (55) which corresponds to said thinned zone (26) of the intermediate support element (4) and which is located between the fixed part (52) and the movable part (51) of the ~~mold (50),~~mold, ~~this~~the method comprising steps in which:

- a) the molding chamber (53) is provided with more molding paste (56) than is necessary for molding the intermediate support ~~element (4),~~element, and then

- b) the movable part (51) of the mold (50) is moved toward the fixed part (52) of the mold (50) so as to cause the molding paste (56) to flow between ~~these~~the fixed and

movable parts and to discharge a surplus of molding paste ~~(56)~~ through the discharge ~~passage~~ ~~(54)~~, passage, until the mold ~~(50)~~ delimits, apart from shrinkage, the final form of the intermediate support ~~element~~ ~~(4)~~. element.

14. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 13, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in step b), the movable part ~~(51)~~ of the mold ~~(50)~~ is moved in a direction ~~(D)~~ substantially perpendicular to said thinned zone ~~(26)~~ of the intermediate support element ~~(4)~~ during molding.